NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

JANUARY 25, 1946 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 5 • VOL. 13, NO. 6

UNO

THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

A REVIEW OF THE EVENTS THAT PRECEDED ITS FORMATION

■ Perhaps the most important conference in modern history is the first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization, which opened in London on January 10, 1946. The hopes of the entire world are centered on this meeting. It will set in motion the machinery planned by the representatives of the United Nations last April, before the war itself had ended, to provide unity in peace as well as in war and to develop a means for settling future disputes and for raising the standards of well-being of the peoples of the world.

Such an event does not just happen. Years of effort and planning are being brought to fruition at this meeting. Since the beginning of time men have been trying to find ways to eliminate wars, but recent years have shown great progress toward this desired end.

The General Assembly, made up of fifty-one member nations, has been likened to a town meeting of the world. It will set up any committees and call whatever conferences are necessary to carry out its powers as defined in the Charter. How well it performs these first duties will determine the future course of UNO, and each of its deliberations will have some eventual effect on our personal lives. Realizing this, we shall want to follow its accomplishments with a deep awareness of their significance, not only for ourselves but for the generations yet unborn.

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THE ATLANTIC CHARTER (August 14, 1941) laid down the basic principles on which a better future for the world should be built. This document was drawn up by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, meeting on a battleship in the Atlantic Ocean.

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THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION (January 2, 1942), signed by twenty-six of the United Nations in Washington, D. C., subscribes to the purposes and principles of the Atlantic Charter. By April 25, 1945, forty-seven nations had signed the document and declared war on Germany. At the end of the San Francisco Conference this number had increased to fifty-one.

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THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (May 1943), meeting while the war was still being fought, brought representatives of forty-four United Nations to Hot Springs, Virginia, to discuss methods of securing "freedom from want" both during the war and in the years following the war. A charter for an International Food and Agriculture Organization was adopted. This was later ratified by the participating nations, and the first official sessions of the new organization (FAO) were held at Quebec in October 1945.

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THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE (October 1943) marked another historic milestone. The foreign ministers of *Great Britain, Russia,* and the *United States* met at Moscow and agreed on the general principles on which a new world organization should be based. *China* joined in this agreement later.

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THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE (November 9, 1943) met to set up an agency to give aid to the stricken populations of liberated areas, to return war prisoners and exiles to their homes, and to assist in the restoration of essential services. It is a temporary agency and is now in its second year of service. The United States has just voted it a second annual appropriation of $1,350,000,000.

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THE CAIRO CONFERENCE (November 1943) was attended by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who issued a joint statement concerning their war and peace aims in the Pacific area.

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THE TEHERAN CONFERENCE (December 1943) produced a declaration by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Premier Stalin that all nations "dedicated . . . to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance" would be welcomed into the "world family of democratic nations."

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THE UNITED NATIONS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL CONFERENCE AT BRETTON WOODS, NEW HAMPSHIRE (July 1944) achieved its purpose when representatives of the forty-four United Nations agreed to establish an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to aid the trade and economic life of the United Nations after the war. These agreements were formally ratified in Washington, D. C., on December 27, 1945, by a sufficient number of nations to make them effective.

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THE DUMBARTON OAKS CONFERENCE (August–October 1944) is now familiar to us all. Representatives of *Russia, Great Britain,* and the *United States,* and later of *Great Britain,* the *United States,* and *China,* met and developed proposals for a United Nations Organization. These are the proposals

we studied carefully a year ago, and they were the basis for the discussions at the San Francisco Conference. Expanded and liberalized at San Francisco, they are now known as the Charter of the United Nations Organization.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE (November–December 1944) was held at Chicago, Illinois, to discuss proposals for air transportation in the postwar world.

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THE CRIMEA CONFERENCE (February 1945) convened at Yalta in the Crimean peninsula. At this meeting Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin decided to call a conference at San Francisco on April 25, 1945, for "the earliest possible establishment with our Allies of a general international organization to maintain peace and security." *France* and *China* were invited to be cosponsors. *China* accepted, but *France* declined the invitation.

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THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE (February–March 1945) was composed of representatives of the nations of the Western Hemisphere, who developed regional arrangements for dealing with matters of peace and security, consistent with the principles of the proposed international organization.

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THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE (April 25, 1945–June 26, 1945) came to a close when representatives of all the fifty-one United Nations signed the Charter as adopted by them. They also signed an Interim Agreement that provided for united action in preparation for the first meeting of the UNO after the Charter had been ratified by a sufficient number of nations.

■

THE LONDON MEETINGS

1. *The Executive Committee* met in London after the close of the San Francisco Conference, then it made its report to—

2. *A Preparatory Commission* on which all the signatory nations were represented. The Commission has done its work, and the first meeting of—

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 13 JANUARY 25, 1946 Number 6

Published monthly August through December, semimonthly in January, monthly February through May, bimonthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Subscription price: 20 cents a year. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1941. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.

3. *The General Assembly* began on January 10, 1946, to make final choice of a permanent site for UNO, to appoint members of the various commissions and councils, to choose a secretary-general, and to set the machinery of UNO in motion.

■

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (November 1, 1945) also met in London. This organization was provided for in the UNO Charter to further educational, scientific, and cultural cooperation among the nations. The constitution for the new organization must now be ratified by twenty of the governments represented at this meeting. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers supports ratification of this charter.

OUTLINE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

By action of our Senate and our President, the United Nations Charter is now a part of our basic law. It takes its place along with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States as one of the three great documents in the history of our democracy. Therefore, it is essential that we know what the Charter is and what it can mean for the family of nations created under its terms. The following summary will help you to understand the principal provisions of this challenging instrument for international peace:

Preamble. The peoples of the United Nations pledge themselves to work together for the elimination of war, for the establishment of fundamental human rights, for international law and justice, for social progress; to practice tolerance and to unite to maintain international peace and security.

■

Chapter I, *Purposes and Principles*

1. *Purposes:* To maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, and to achieve cooperation in solving international problems.

2. *Principles:* Sovereign equality of all member nations, which shall "in good faith fulfill the obligation assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter."

■

Chapter II, *Membership*

Nations participating in the San Francisco Conference (and all nations that signed the United Nations Declaration before January 1, 1942) that shall sign and ratify the United Nations Charter; other nations to be recommended by the Security Council to the General Assembly and there admitted by majority vote.

■

Chapter III, *Organs*

The organs of the United Nations Organization shall be a General Assembly, a Security Council, an Economic and Social Council, a Trusteeship Council, an International Court of Justice, and a Secretariat.

Chapter IV, *The General Assembly*

The General Assembly shall meet annually and on call. Each nation shall have one vote although it may have five delegates. (The present U.S. delegates are Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Senators Tom Connally and Arthur H. Vandenberg, and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.) The Assembly makes recommendations for the maintenance of peace and security and the promotion of international cooperation in all fields. It works closely with the Security Council and with the Economic and Social Council. Its important decisions are made by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting. Minor matters will be settled by a simple majority vote.

■

Chapter V, *The Security Council*

This body shall consist of five permanent members—*Russia, China, Great Britain, France,* and the *United States*—and six members elected for terms of two years by the General Assembly. Each member nation has one vote and one representative. This Council has the responsibility for maintaining international peace. Important decisions will be determined by a vote of seven members, but the five permanent members must vote together (this is the so-called veto power, or unanimity rule) except when one of them is a party to the dispute under discussion.

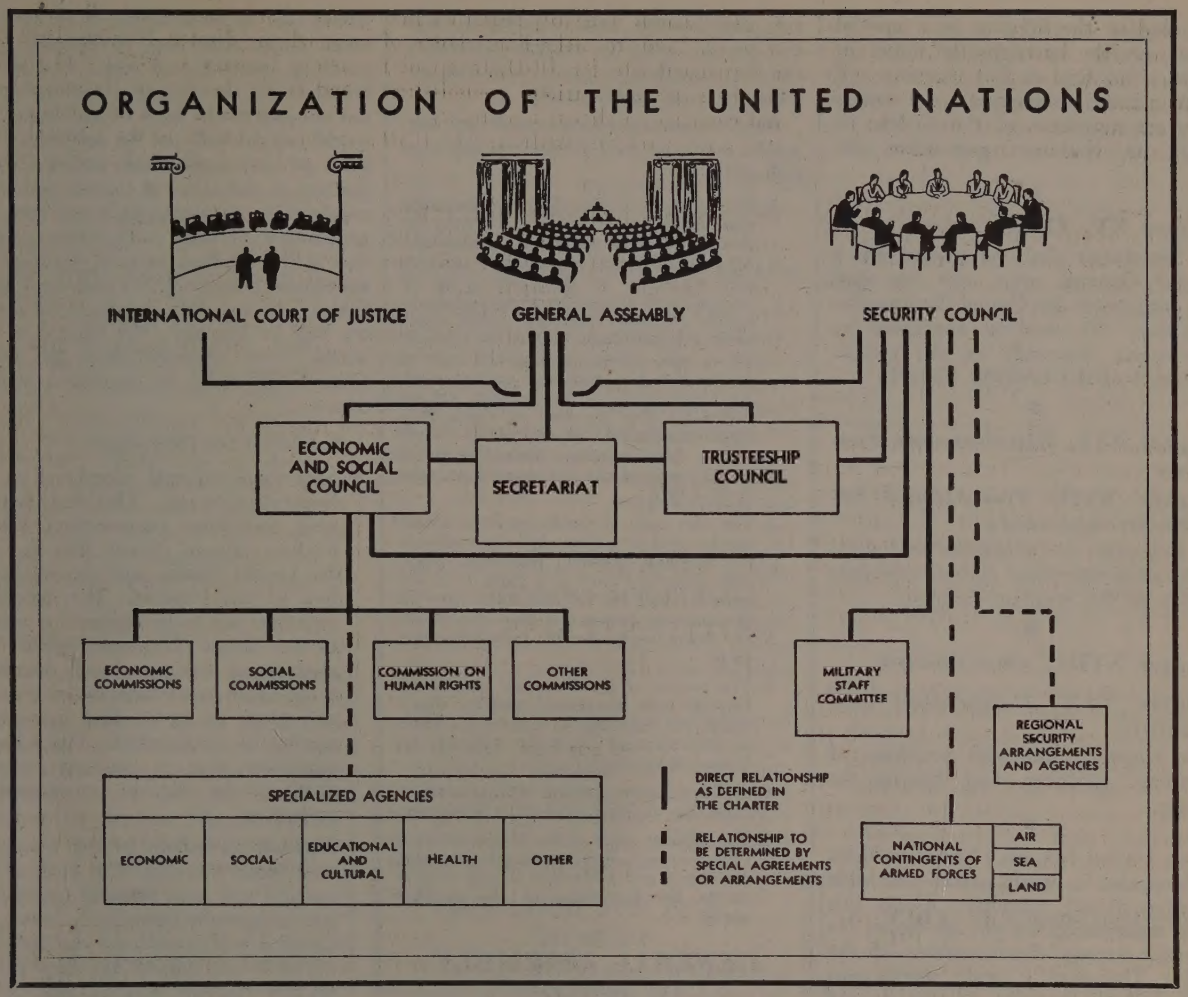
■

Chapter VI, *Pacific Settlement of Disputes*

Chapter VII, *Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*

Chapter VIII, *Regional Arrangements*

These chapters of the Charter give the details of procedures to be used in attempting to settle disputes by negotiation and by other means when negotiations fail; to provide for a Military



Staff Committee; and to allow for such regional arrangements for the maintenance of international peace and security as are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Organization.

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Chapter IX, *International Economic and Social Cooperation*

Chapter X, *The Economic and Social Council*

These chapters relate to the solutions of social, economic, educational, health, and other related problems. The work of the consultant and associate consultants of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers at the San Francisco Conference was largely concerned with the provisions in these two chapters. It is here stipulated that an Economic and Social Council, composed of eighteen members, each elected for a three-year term by the General Assembly, shall be established to coordinate the activities of the various specialized international organizations (such as the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; an international labor organization; agencies for trade agreements and the Bretton Woods Agreements; and so forth).

■

Chapter XI, *Declaration Regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories*

Chapter XII, *International Trusteeship System*

Chapter XIII, *The Trusteeship Council*

These chapters are concerned with the policy toward non-self-governing territories for which members of the United Nations have or assume responsibility; with an international trusteeship system established under the authority of the United Nations; and with the Trusteeship Council for the administration of trust territories. The territories involved are (1) those now held under mandate (since World War I); (2) those taken from enemy nations in World War II; and (3) those voluntarily placed under the system by nations now administering them (such as colonies).

The Trusteeship Council shall administer these territories in such a way that the welfare of their inhabitants shall be of first importance and that they may be prepared for all the responsibilities of self-government.

Trusteeship agreements for areas regarded as *nonstrategic* must be approved by the General Assembly. Those deemed *strategic*—Pacific Island bases having military importance, for instance—remain under the jurisdiction of the Security Council.

■

Chapter XIV, *The International Court of Justice*

The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, shall be composed of fifteen members, elected for nine-year terms by the Assembly and the Security Council.

Appended to the Charter is a special *Statute of the International Court of Justice,* consisting of five chapters and seventy articles, which gives the details of the organization of the Court, its powers, its procedures, and other matters.

■

Chapter XV, *The Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall be headed by a Secretary-General, who with his staff shall administer the United Nations Organization. He shall be appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.

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Chapter XVI, *Miscellaneous Provisions*

Chapter XVII, *Transitional Security Arrangements*

These chapters are concerned with treaties between individual nations and their relation to the Security Council.

■

Chapter XVIII, *Amendments*

Chapter XIX, *Ratification and Signature*

These chapters deal with problems of amending, ratifying, and signing the Charter.

■

This United Nations Charter is, then, our blueprint for world peace—our bible of international morality. Upon this world constitution we pin our hopes for harmony among the countries of the world. Therefore it truly merits our most sincere allegiance so that it may succeed in its mission of world peace.

Last year parent-teacher leaders all over the country took up the challenge of teaching the American people about the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals—their meaning and their implications for the future. Now we have no less an obligation to know, and impart knowledge about, the provisions of the Charter. For the United Nations Organization is built upon the framework of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, with some few changes and improvements.

IMPORTANT CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS

One of the additions of which we can be most proud is the concise yet majestic Preamble to the Charter. For us as parent-teacher members it is particularly meaningful, because it embodies the very ideals for which we strive—"to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small" and "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors."

Other important changes and improvements made at San Francisco were as follows:

1. The powers of the General Assembly were expanded to make it a forum for the discussion of international questions. All United Nations councils and agencies will report to it. If UNO is to be strengthened ultimately, it will likely be in the General Assembly, which could become a parliament instead of a forum. To do this, consideration would have to be given to the matter of voting power, for never would it be feasible, for instance, to give the vote of Costa Rica equal importance with that of the United States. Some weighted method of voting would undoubtedly be devised to take care of this.
2. The veto right of the Great Powers cannot be used to prevent full discussion in the Security Council. Moreover, whenever a Great Power is a party to a dispute, it shall not be allowed to vote on the question during the time that efforts are being made for its peaceful settlement.
3. The powers of the Economic and Social Council were broadened, and its supervision was extended to include all kinds of international agencies working for human betterment.
4. A Trusteeship Council was created to supervise or administer trust territories.
5. The Charter gives to the United Nations Organization whatever legal capacity, privileges, and protection it may require inside the territories of the member states.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

The first annual session of the General Assembly will be in two sections—one now meeting in London, which may last until the end of February, and another that will convene on April 25, probably in the United States. The problems now being taken up are chiefly organizational. Some of the important tasks to be performed by the Assembly during the coming weeks are to:

1. APPOINT a secretary-general as the chief administrative officer of the United Nations Organization. The choosing of this principal permanent officer is of prime importance, for it will be his responsibility to bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which, in his opinion, may threaten international peace and security.

2. CHOOSE permanent headquarters for the UNO. The United States has already been selected and the location limited to the East Coast. Six committeemen—from Iraq, China, Yugoslavia, Uruguay, France, and Britain—are now looking over several suggested sites. When one is chosen, the area will be taken from American sovereignty and made an international zone. Just as the District of Columbia is a national zone not subject to the laws of any state, the world capital will not be subject to the laws of any individual nation. Such matters as the right of transit and communication, administrative services, the acquisition of land, and police protection will be taken care of through an agreement between UNO and the United States. At any rate, because our country will be literally "the capital of the world," our responsibilities as world citizens will take on increased significance.

3. ELECT the following:

- *Six nonpermanent members of the Security Council.* The five permanent members—representing China, France, Russia, Great Britain, and the United States—are already specified in the Charter. The six other members are to be elected for a term of two years. However, in the first election of nonpermanent members, three shall be chosen for a term of one year, in order that a rotating system be established. The Charter stipulates that a retiring member shall not be eligible for immediate reelection.
- *Eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council.* The work of this council will hold especial interest for parent-teacher members, for the Council will coordinate the activities of such specialized agencies as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; the International Bank; the International Monetary Fund; the Food and Agriculture Organization; and the International Trade Organization.

Recently the Secretary of State of the United States made public a document setting forth a set of proposals for the expansion of world trade and employment. These proposals, developed by experts from several agencies of the United States government, will be considered by representatives of the United Nations at an International Conference on Trade and Employment, planned for the summer of 1946.

Discussions at this conference would relate to tariffs, subsidies, cartels, and other types of trade barriers that cause economic warfare. Endorsed by the United States and accepted by Great Britain as a basis for international discussion, the world

trade proposals are now being submitted to other governments in preparation for the formation of an International Trade Organization. Such an agency would give all nations equal access to the raw materials of the world. It would provide a common market-place where many countries with a variety of economic systems might meet and barter without conflict or misunderstanding.

Among the specialized agencies to be created are those relating to health, child welfare, and human rights, all of which are mentioned specifically in the Charter. These, and whatever others are established in the future, will all be more or less autonomous, but each will maintain its own relationship with the Economic and Social Council of UNO.

- *Members of the Trusteeship Council.*
- *Fifteen members of the International Court of Justice.* These judges will consider disputes about treaties and questions of international law, as it affects nations as distinct from individuals. The new Court of Justice, convening at The Hague, Holland, may also give an advisory opinion on any legal question requested by the General Assembly or the Security Council. Other organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies (when so authorized by the General Assembly) may also request advisory opinions on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.

4. RECOMMEND principles and policies and INITIATE research about any problem that affects international cooperation. Some of these matters to be discussed are:

- The use and control of atomic energy. This question is of utmost importance.

  The National Congress of Parents and Teachers supports the appointment of a commission of the General Assembly to formulate policies in regard to the international control of the atomic bomb. It opposes passage of the May-Johnson bill (S.1463), which would confine control of the bomb to a United States commission of nine members appointed by the President.

- The establishment of a special commission to promote a free press throughout the world.
- Studies in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields that will assist "in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

5. APPROVE the budget of the United Nations Organization and examine the budgets of specialized agencies.

TO SAFEGUARD WORLD PEACE

Among the important steps soon to be taken is the formation of the Military Staff Committee under the Security Council, as provided in the Charter. This committee will assist the Council on all questions relating to military requirements, the employment and command of armed forces, the regulation of armaments, and possible plans for future disarmament.

After the committee has specified the size of the military force to be contributed by each nation and has decided as to what military bases and other facilities will be needed, it will draft a pledge agreement to be ratified by the member nations.

The decisions of this committee are of crucial interest to the United States in relation to its pending question of compulsory military training. If UNO can successfully take over the task of policing the world, our own military needs may be kept to a minimum.

PREPARING FOR PEACE TREATIES

Writing peace treaties, settling new boundaries, collecting reparations, or governing occupied territories are not part of the work of UNO. This fact avoids one of the difficulties encountered by the League of Nations. According to the Potsdam Declaration, such matters are to be settled by the Council of Foreign Ministers, composed of representatives of the five principal powers. Moreover, the UNO has a power not held by the League of Nations—that of using force to keep the peace, once it is made.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AMERICANS

Because the United Nations Charter is now a part of the supreme law of the land, there is no longer any question of standing off and criticizing the document or of discussing whether or not we shall cooperate. Since our Senate has ratified the Charter, we have a definite obligation to support its terms in both spirit and letter.

The future of the United Nations Organization depends upon an informed and favorable public opinion, and it will take fair and honest reporting of UNO accomplishments to achieve this affirmative attitude. We in the parent-teacher organization can do much to build such an attitude—a duty we should assume with sincerity and willingness. This is where we all may help—where we may feel that we have truly had a share in achieving that lasting peace we have so long sought.

For further study, here are some suggestions:

United Nations Primer by Sigrid Arne. New York: Farrar and Rinehart. $1.25. Text edition, 95c.

The United Nations Charter: What Was Done at San Francisco by Clark M. Eichelberger. American Association for the United Nations, Incorporated; Commission To Study the Organization of Peace, 45 East 65th Street, New York 21, New York. 10c.

Toward the Peace. Publication 2298. U.S. Department of State. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Washington 25, D. C. 15c.

50 Questions and Answers About the United Nations Charter. The Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 45 East 65th Street, New York 21, New York. Single copies free.

Department of State Bulletin. Weekly publication. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. $3.50 a year. Single copy 10c.

Teaching About the United Nations Charter. National Education Association of the United States, 1201 Sixteenth Street Northwest, Washington 6, D. C. 10c.

The Four Cornerstones of Peace by Vera Micheles Dean. New York: McGraw-Hill. $2.50.

THE ANSWERS

Q. What is a blue certificate and how do we get one?

A. A *blue certificate* is given by *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* to every local association that sends in three subscriptions by March 31, 1946. Renewal subscriptions to the magazine may be counted as well as new ones. There is still time for every association to earn one of these attractive awards. Just send in the three subscriptions, give the name of your P.T.A., and *definitely request the certificate.* If you sent in one or two subscriptions earlier and did not know about the certificate, send along another subscription now, give the names of the other two subscribers, and ask for the certificate. Address subscriptions and your request to

National Parent-Teacher
600 South Michigan Boulevard
Chicago 5, Illinois

Q. We need more membership cards. How do we get them?

A. Please write to your state office for them.

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

State Education Group Sponsors P.T.A. Membership

Although we do not work for praise, a tribute now and then does much to renew our ambition and our efforts. This year the Indiana Congress must feel especially challenged and encouraged, for the report of the resolutions committee of the Indiana State Teachers Association makes specific mention of the work of this state branch. Two paragraphs from the report are of interest to P.T.A. members everywhere.

Under the heading of "Teacher Affiliations," the October 1945 statement of the I.S.T.A. resolutions committee reads as follows:

- *"We urge member participation in the activities of all lay groups actively engaged in the elevation of educational standards in the various communities throughout the state. We strongly urge membership in the Indiana Congress of Parents and Teachers."*

Again, in summarizing "Educational Legislation," the report states:

- *"We wish particularly to commend the foresight and effective work of the Indiana Congress of Parents and Teachers in its support of progressive school legislation."*

Such a spirit of cooperation will achieve much for the children of any state.

Keeping "Schoolhouse"

The Central High School P.T.A. in Fort Wayne, Indiana, holds a "Back-to-School Day" each year in November. School is dismissed for the day, and while the high school youngsters "keep house" their parents follow the schedule of classes for that day. They have an excellent opportunity to discuss their various problems during each class session, and luncheon at noon in the school cafeteria provides additional opportunity for parents and teachers to become better acquainted.

During the assembly period in the auditorium an outstanding speaker is heard, and the entire day is one of profit and enjoyment for the "back-to-schoolers" at Central High.

The California Congress of Parents and Teachers has voted to grant four $1,000 one-year psychiatric teacher training fellowships. It also voted $30,000 to continue the scholarships for the training of teachers for the elementary public schools of California.

Attendance and Reading Stimulated

We've won the war
Stay on the beam,
Make going to school
Our peacetime theme.

This lively little jingle, appearing on the cover of a printed schedule of activities in the Seattle Public Schools, is part of an effort to improve school attendance in the community. The elementary section of the Seattle Council of Parents and Teachers presented one of these billfold-size schedules to every student so as to give each boy and girl a ready reference to what is happening in and around school throughout the year.

Another important project of the elementary section of the council is a Summer Vacation Reading Club, composed entirely of elementary school children. The Seattle Public Library has sponsored this project for many years, but recently it has had the support of the P.T.A. as well.

To become a member of the Reading Club, a pupil must read eight books during the summer and report on at least four of them to the public librarian in his district. Statistics for last summer show that a total of 2,296 students read 18,358 books and reported on 4,592 of them. The first three schools having the largest percentage of readers (based on school attendance as of June) were given an award. At school in the fall all Reading Club pupils were given certificates from the public library in recognition of their summer's work.

United Effort in Bronxville

A review of the past year of parent-teacher work in Bronxville, New York, shows that the P.T.A. is not only extremely important in the life of the school but that it is extending its influence outside the school into the community itself.

This was well proved by the fact that several resolutions, prepared by the Bronxville Clearing House Committee, were accepted by the P.T.A. council for referral to the board of education. These resolutions included such recommendations as the upward advancement of teachers' salaries; the expansion of special school services; the coordination and broadening of the social studies program; the development of an integrated guidance service; and suggestions for school building improvements.

The Clearing House Committee also recommended that the P.T.A. take the initial steps toward setting up the machinery for a Community Council in Bronxville. This proposal was also accepted by the P.T.A.

Here is an example of true cooperation for the welfare of the children in the community.

BIRNEY MEMORIAL MINIATURE

At the Founders Day observance of the Burleigh Rural Agricultural School Parent-Teacher Association in Whittemore, Michigan, seven of the ten past presidents of the unit were honored at a dinner meeting. Proof of a pleasant evening are the smiling faces of these former officers, seated around the attractive centerpiece, which is a *miniature replica of the Birney Memorial.*

A TREASURED GLIMPSE OF THE EARLY DAYS

BY JANET RICHARDS OF WASHINGTON, D. C., WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE FIRST MEETINGS OF THE CONGRESS

Alice McLellan Birney

Phoebe Apperson Hearst

THE FOUNDERS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

I well remember one winter day early in 1896 when Mrs. Birney came to call at our home in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Living as near neighbors on the same street, she and I saw a lot of each other. This particular day she had come to consult my mother about starting a movement in behalf of what she called "child culture." I entered the room just as they were discussing the possibility of financing such a movement. Whereupon, knowing Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst as a noted benefactress of children, I suggested to Mrs. Birney that she write to Mrs. Hearst for an interview.

Later, Mrs. Birney succeeded in seeing Mrs. Hearst and in enlisting her full cooperation. It should never be forgotten that Mrs. Hearst financed the first two Congress meetings by a generous contribution, upward of $16,000, and was elected first vice-president of the organization.

In May 1896 the Biennial Convention of Women's Clubs was held in Louisville, Kentucky. I attended as a delegate, and by request of Mrs. Birney I carried with me a formal statement of the objects of the new movement and an urgent invitation to the women of the convention to attend the first Congress of Mothers to be held at Washington in February 1897. I read the announcement and invitation to the Biennial at one of its largely attended sessions. Thus I became herald to the women of America of the new and entirely original organization destined to evolve into the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

I well remember the opening of the first meeting in 1897. It was held in the large ballroom of the Arlington Hotel in Washington. Having been invited by Mrs. Birney to act as official reader and as factotum in the way of backstage work, I arrived at the hall bright and early on Monday morning. I was greatly interested in watching the onrush of Congress attendants at this initial assemblage. Within the first hour it became evident that the ballroom was entirely inadequate; literally hundreds of people were turned away. It became evident, also, after the first day's meeting that a larger hall must be found. The next day, therefore, the Congress moved to the large assembly room of the First Baptist Church, where the remaining sessions were held. I have in my possession the program of that first meeting, including papers by eminent men and women of the period. The titles of these talks make very interesting reading today.

As I was not officially connected with the movement, I had no personal touch with the progress of the organization during the following year until the convening of the second Congress, which took place in the week of May 1, 1898. This was the week of the battle of Manila Bay and of the opening of the Spanish-American War.

It was necessary to hold the second Congress in our largest auditorium, which at that time was Albaugh's Opera House. I was again invited by Mrs. Birney to act as official reader and in addition was asked to appear on the program.

An incident that I recall with pleasure was the presence in the audience of the popular and humorous Wu Ting-fang, Minister from China. Because of his colorful native costume, a bright cherry-colored skirt and a blue embroidered upper coat, Mr. Wu was a bright object in the audience. Upon observing him, Mrs. Birney said to me: "Please go down and persuade Mr. Wu to come to the platform." I hurried down the aisle and invited him to accompany me to the stage. He agreed. "But," he protested, "you must not ask me to speak." Not being the presiding officer, I made no promises. As Mr. Wu ascended the platform he was greeted by such hearty rounds of applause that Mrs. Birney rightly judged that the audience wished to hear from him. He gave a most interesting and entertaining talk on women's place in the world and the proper training of children. His speech was the hit of the evening.

Great has been the prosperity of the movement financed in its early days by Phoebe Apperson Hearst and inspired and launched by Alice McLellan Birney. Today the P.T.A. is a mighty organization with a great and ever growing membership.

As a close friend of Mrs. Birney, I find in looking backward that she kept me so busy aiding her in various ways that what I have related may probably sound more or less like autobiography. For this, however, I shall not apologize since I consider it my good fortune to have been so intimately associated with the beginnings of so notable a movement.

FEBRUARY SEVENTEENTH IS FOUNDERS DAY

Each year as we honor our Founders we take time to measure our progress along the road they charted for us. This year we might also check our course against another—a newer—blueprint as well: the chart that points the way to justice and happiness and peace for all the world. You will be surprised to see how similar are its goals to those envisioned by our Founders forty-nine years ago. *—Mrs. William Kletzer, National Chairman, Committee on Founders Day*

SYMPHONIES FOR YOUTH

Your music chairman will be interested to know that the American Broadcasting Company is planning to carry the *Symphonies for Youth* series for a thirteen-week period beginning on January 12, 1946. The program will feature the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Alfred Wallenstein, and the numbers presented will be chosen on the basis of their appeal to young listeners. On each broadcast there will also be a short musical quiz in which school children are the participants.

The series is scheduled for Saturdays in order that children of school age may hear this better type of music. Perhaps it might be possible to organize listening groups in your community under the supervision of a music instructor or a talented member of a local unit.

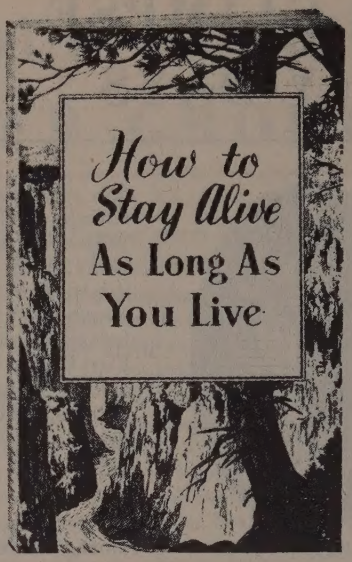
Killed in Battle—261,608 Killed in Accidents—355,000

Statistics comparing war and home-front accident casualties during the period from Pearl Harbor to V-J Day were recently released by the National Safety Council. Figures obtained from the Army and Navy show a total of 261,608 killed and 651,911 wounded in World War II. Appalling as were our military losses, the accident toll here at home was responsible for an even greater waste of life and efficiency—355,000 killed and 36,000,000 injured.

In releasing the figures, the National Safety Council takes care to point out that there is no thought of implying that wartime activities on the home front compared in danger to actual fighting on the battle front. However, the statistics do impress us with the enormity of the accident toll and remind us of the vital importance of taking precautions whenever possible—in war or in peace.

RIGHT BACK IN!

• Have you ever heard a person say he won't spend a dollar for this or that because it would take the *money out of the town?* When a P.T.A. or an individual spends a dollar for *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine,* something comes right back into the town—ten issues of an important, inspiring, informative magazine. If any local unit could get even 50 per cent of the many experts who write each year for the *National Parent-Teacher* to come and address its members for a one-dollar admission fee, wouldn't that be something to talk about? *If these experts came, they probably would say the same things they write in the* National Parent-Teacher. So why not let your members have the benefit of their professional advice and guidance by increasing the circulation of the *National Parent-Teacher!*



New Congress Publication

FOR those "who hunger to prolong their hold on life"—and that means every single one of us—the beautifully designed volume entitled HOW TO STAY ALIVE AS LONG AS YOU LIVE will be a jewel box filled with sparkling gems of philosophy.

From this treasure chest parents and teachers may gather precious bits of wisdom and inspiration to help them in their common task of enriching the lives of the young and—equally as important—of staying young in spirit themselves.

Gathered into this convenient form like pearls upon a chain are the separate articles under the same name that appeared last year in *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine.* The author of the series, Bonaro W. Overstreet, needs no introduction to parent-teacher members. They are well aware of her penetrating insight into the human mind and spirit.

How To Stay Alive as Long as You Live will be well worth the nominal sum of fifty cents not only for the convenience of having Mrs. Overstreet's stimulating articles in one volume but also for the beauty it will give your spirit in these days of stress.

← CHAPTER TITLES

Of Body, and of Mind and Spirit
The Raw Materials of Understanding
You Are as Young as Your Words
Strong Food for the Mind
The Upward Pull
Heart's Wisdom
Of Good Courage
What To Do with a Past
A Sense of the Size of Life
The Vitality of the Ideal

Copies of the booklet are available now from the National Office or from your state congress office.

P.T.A. ALMANAC FOR FEBRUARY

Within the association:

- February 17. Celebrate Founders Day. Emphasize the relationship of the local unit to the state and National organizations. Stress the far-reaching vision of our Founders in charting a program of child welfare that is as pertinent today as it was forty-nine years ago.
- Arrange a special display of the *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine,* which was started by the pioneer leaders of the Congress.
- Follow the progress of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization now meeting in London.

Within the community:

- February 7. Observe National Social Hygiene Day. Sponsored by the American Social Hygiene Association, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, New York.
- February 12. Abraham Lincoln's Birthday. Strive to achieve in the community that freedom from bigotry which the Great Emancipator so fully exemplified in his every action.
- February 4–11. National Drama Week. Sponsored by the Drama League of America, 150 East 72nd Street, New York. Cooperate with the school in exhibits of play collections and the dramatization of stories.
- February 8–14. Boy Scout Anniversary Week. Sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America, 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York. See the head of the Boy Scout Council in your area for available materials.
- February 17–24. Brotherhood Week. Sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York.
- February 22. George Washington's Birthday.

Is there *anyone* in your P.T.A. who doesn't know about *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine?* If there is, you still haven't done *all you can* for CHILD WELFARE.

HELP TO FIGHT INFLATION